



Contacts:

Jim Smith, Medical Quality Assurance Commission-Investigations Unit 360-236-2770

Maryella Jansen, Medical Quality Assurance Commission 360-236-2750

Fraud Alert-Scam originating in California now targets Washington physicians, impersonating medical board investigators and state medical association members

Olympia-The California medical board has issued a warning to its physician population regarding a new fraud scheme. This fraud attempts to gain access to credit card and social security number information. In a desire to prevent similar frauds from being effective, the Washington State Medical Quality Assurance Commission is issuing a warning to the physician and physician assistant population of Washington.

In the reports given to the medical board, the person attempting to commit the fraud contacts the license holder and demands credit card and social security information. The person claims to be a California medical board investigator and threatens to cancel their license unless the physician complies with their demands.

Additionally, someone claiming to be a representative of the Washington State Medical Association (WSMA) contacted a physician in Washington State on September 22, 2011. This caller claimed to be a WSMA investigator and demanded information such as the physician's date of birth, social security number, and other information. The physician in question hung up on the caller and immediately contacted the medical commission as well as law enforcement.

The Washington State Medical Quality Assurance Commission will never ask for your credit card or social security information during the course of an investigation. Additionally, the Washington State Medical Association does not have investigators and will not ask for credit card and social security information. If you believe you have been contacted fraudulently, please report this to local law enforcement and the medical commission at medical.commission@doh.wa.gov.

The Medical Quality Assurance Commission promotes patient safety and enhances the integrity of the profession through licensing, discipline, rule-making and education.

###